

# IPIC Committee & Community Mandates

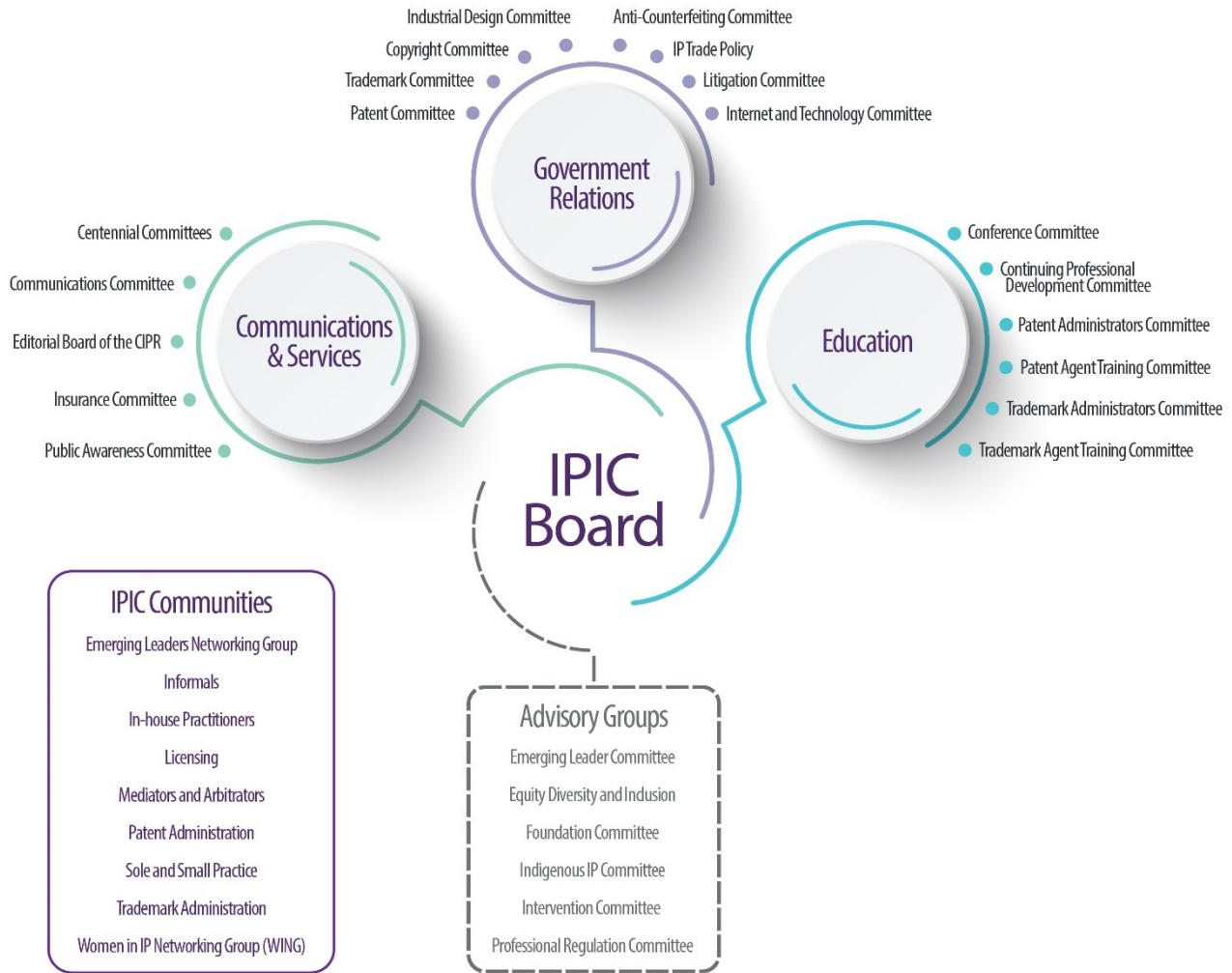
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Intellectual Property Institute of Canada  
Institut de la propriété intellectuelle du Canada



# Committee and Community Structure





# Committees

With the help of its 24 Committees divided into various areas of expertise, IPIC engages with government, elected officials, courts and global IP groups, advocates for the interests of the Canadian IP Profession, develops and delivers high quality training programs and webinars, promotes awareness of the value of IP and publishes quality publications while providing unmatched services to its members.

IPIC Committees function on a two-year cycle. To foster productive collaboration, discussion, and participation most IPIC Committees have a limit of 30 participants per committee and each member can participate in a maximum of 2 committees per cycle.

## Government Relations

These committees support IPIC efforts to ensure that the interests of the Canadian IP profession are considered in relevant legislation, regulation, policies, and international treaties. They prepare submissions to the government and participate in IPIC's advocacy efforts.

### **Anti-counterfeiting Committee**

The mandate of this committee is to contribute to the development and implementation of anticounterfeiting policy and programs in Canada and its borders.

### **Copyright Committee**

The committee monitors and provides feedback on potential improvements to Canadian copyright law that reflect the practical knowledge of the IP professional community in Canada. The Copyright Committee also serves as a platform for debate amongst members of our Institute who represent various interests of the copyright community. If a consensus is reached on a particular topic, the committee will advocate copyright reform in areas desired by the Institute and its members. When there is not a consensus, it will report to the IPIC Board on the various points of view.

### **Industrial Design Committee**

The committee reviews all proposals and makes recommendations to amend policy that may affect the substantive industrial design system in Canada and monitors industrial design practice with a view to identifying facets of industrial design policy in need of reform. To keep all members informed of developments within the areas of Industrial Design, especially those related to interactions with CIPO, the committee will also be responsible for providing quarterly updates to be featured in IPIC's IP Newsbreak and within IPIC's UnscriPted blog.



### **Internet & Technology Committee**

The committee monitors the law and practice relating to intellectual property protection of computer-related technology as well as initiatives concerning domain names and trademarks on the internet. The committee develops recommendations and evaluates proposals for enactment of new laws and regulations, interpretation of existing policy, and current developments in case law in order to make recommendations to the IPIC Board.

### **IP Trade Policy Committee**

The IP Trade Policy Committee has the responsibility of examining and providing the Canadian government with feedback on IP provisions of prospective international trade agreements and subsequent legislation. This includes amendments and re-negotiation of existing trade agreements, and feedback on Canadian internal trade agreements.

### **Litigation Committee**

This committee examines the law, practice and procedure respecting intellectual property litigation. The Committee also provides case summaries for IPIC's UnscriPted blog.

### **Patent Committee**

This committee monitors proposed amendments to the Patent Act and Patent Rules and any other policy relating to patents including PCT matters and life sciences-related subject matter, and to suggest desirable amendments of the Act and Rules and other patent-related legislation. The committee is also charged with monitoring developments in patent law harmonization and practice issues within CIPO and/or WIPO. It also monitors international patent policy issues identifying areas for Canadian policy reform to keep pace with the international community. To keep all members informed of developments within the areas of Patents, especially those related to interactions with CIPO, the committee will also be responsible for providing quarterly updates to be featured in IPIC's IP Newsbreak and within IPIC's UnscriPted blog.

### **Trademark Committee**

The mandate of this committee is to monitor proposed amendments of the Trademarks Act and Trademark Regulations and any other policy relating to trademarks, and to suggest desirable amendments of the Act and Regulations. This committee is also charged with monitoring developments in trademark law and practice within CIPO and/or WIPO. It also monitors international trademark policy issues to identify areas for Canadian policy reform to keep pace with the international community. To keep all members informed of developments within the areas of Trademarks, especially those related to interactions with CIPO, the committee will also be responsible for providing quarterly updates to be featured in IPIC's IP Newsbreak and within IPIC's UnscriPted blog.



# Education

The following committees help develop and deliver high quality training to our members so they can achieve the highest standards throughout their careers. They prepare content for the Annual Conference, find speakers for courses and webinars and research new delivery methods.

## **Conference Committee**

The mandate of this committee is to prepare the educational program for the Annual Conference. Work includes determining the conference theme and session topics as well as selecting speakers. Members of this committee can also act as moderators during conference sessions.

## **Continuing Professional Development Committee**

The committee develops educational programs offered in webinars and interactive workshop formats. These programs provide the profession with continuing education on emerging areas of practice, substantive law, ethics & professionalism, practice management, and education at more advanced level of IP practice. It leads the yearly Patent and Trademark Case Law Review series.

## **Patent Administrators Committee**

The committee develops educational curriculum for patent assistants, paralegals and clerks leading to the professional designation of Certified Canadian Patent Administrator (CCPA) upon successfully passing the exam. The committee sets the certification exam and develops continuing education for the CCPAs.

## **Patent Agent Training Committee**

The Committee is responsible for the Patent Agent Training Course and the Patent Agent Tutorials. These courses are designed to enhance the patent agent trainees' level of knowledge and skills and to assist trainees in passing the Patent Agent Qualifying Examination. The Committee reviews and updates course content and helps find instructors and tutors for both offerings. Members of this Committee must be licensed by the College of Patent Agents and Trademark Agents.

## **Trademark Administrators Committee**

The committee develops educational curriculum for trademark assistants, paralegals and clerks leading to the professional designation of Certified Canadian Trademark Administrator (CCTA) upon successfully passing the exam. The committee sets the certification exam and develops continuing education for the CCTAs.

## **Trademark Agent Training Committee**

The Committee is responsible for the Trademark Agent Exam Prep Course, the Trademark Agent Training Course, and the Trademark Agent Tutorials. The Exam Prep Course and the Tutorials are designed to assist trademark agent trainees in passing the Trademark Agent Qualifying Examination and to enhance their level



of knowledge and skills. The TM Agent Training Course offers on-demand online continuing education for trademark agents. The Committee reviews and updates course content and helps find instructors and tutors. Members of this Committee must be licensed by the College of Patent Agents and Trademark Agents.



# Advisory Groups

These committees advise IPIC and the Board of Directors on issues related to their mandate.

## **Foundation Committee**

The Patent and Trademark Institute Educational Foundation (PTIEF) is a registered charity. Its objective is to encourage education and scholarship in the IP field. The Foundation currently awards prizes to the students achieving the highest marks in the Patent Agent and Trademark Agent exams each year. The trustees wish to expand the role of the Foundation and increase the capacity of the Foundation to provide financial support to worthwhile educational activities in the IP field. The mandate of the committee will be to develop and execute a fundraising strategy.

## **Indigenous IP Committee**

The Committee's mandate is to monitor and consider the relationship between indigenous rights and intellectual property protection in Canada and elsewhere. The Committee expects to be involved in educating and informing members about the relationship between indigenous rights and IP, including through the dissemination of written resources, assistance with the development of CPD programs, and outreach to experts in the area, both domestically and abroad. The Committee further anticipates monitoring and identifying the development of issues involving the interface between indigenous rights and IP, and where appropriate, making recommendations on positions to be taken concerning such issues as they may impact Canadian IP laws.

## **Intervention committee**

The Intervention Committee is designated and staffed by the IPIC Board, as per IPIC's intervention policy. The Intervention Committee is responsible for the following activities: monitor or identify judicial and administrative decisions which involve significant issues of law or practice which affect intellectual property; make recommendations to IPIC regarding matters in which IPIC may want to intervene; review and evaluate requests for intervention; where a request for intervention has been approved: supervise Intervention Counsel on all cases where IPIC intervention is sought; develop and approve all submissions made before the Court by the Intervention Counsel; and provide status reports to the Board on all cases where IPIC intervention is sought.

## **Professional Regulation Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to regulation of the profession.

## **Emerging Leader Committee**

The Emerging Leaders Committee is open to members (excluding Fellows) who have been in practice for less than ten years. The mandate of the Committee is to serve the interests of intellectual property practitioners with less than ten years of experience in IP and students including providing professional development and networking opportunities, and outreach.



### **Equity Diversity & Inclusion Committee**

The Committee recognizes the importance of cultivating a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the IP profession. Ensuring that these essential principles are integrated into IPICs policies, programs, and practices.

- This committee will develop educational opportunities/webinars/sessions focused on EDI throughout the year.
- This committee is also responsible for assisting with the development of materials for various EDI related celebrations or days of note ex. International Women’s Day, Black History Month





# Communications & Services

The following committees help IPIC to provide high member engagement programs, high quality communications, or improve IPIC stewardship. They deliver quality publications, information and services to IPIC members (i.e. CIPR, blog and website).

## Centennial Committee

The committee will be responsible for developing plans and programs in preparation for celebrating IPIC's upcoming 100-year anniversary at the 2026 Annual Conference.

This will include organizing a re-publication/re-print with updated information and forwarding for Robert Mitchell's book: [History of the Patent and Trade Mark Profession in Canada](#).

## Communications Committee

The committee is responsible for staying up to date on IP matters in the media and identifying opportunities for an appropriate response from IPIC, for example within op-eds, on the IPIC News section etc. The committee is also responsible to source and provide content for IPIC's UnscriPted blog, including articles on relevant and interesting IP topics, white papers, Q&As, committee profiles, member profiles, etc., approximately 2 per month.

## Editorial Board of the CIPR

The Editorial Board of the Canadian Intellectual Property Review (CIPR) is responsible soliciting newsworthy items of potential interest to members, promoting the opportunity for inclusion in CIPR and encouraging members to submit articles and notes to CIPR. The Editor-in-Chief serves as Chair of the Committee, the Associate Editor serves as Vice-Chair and other members of the committee serve as reviewers for submissions to CIPR, reviewers for each article or note are chosen based on their area of specialization/expertise. The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor are also responsible for assisting in the publication and review process when CIPR goes to print.

## Insurance Committee

The mandate of the Insurance Committee of the IPIC is threefold. First, it is to monitor the Errors & Omissions insurance coverage program offered to members to ensure the broadest coverage at the lowest cost. Second, the Committee, in association with the relevant insurance companies and brokers, provides information and education with respect to Errors & Omissions insurance issues. Third, the Committee oversees the IPIC's internal insurance coverage for its directors, officers, committee members and property.

## Public Awareness Committee

This committee will initiate activities, including some with partners, aimed at small and medium businesses, universities, and any other group which can be targeted to provide a basic understanding of IP, its benefits, and why to use an IP professional. Members of the committee will be involved in the development of the speaker's database to identify expert speakers for various events.





# Communities

Communities are groups of members with a common professional interest. They can be based on issues, practice profiles, region – or any topic that meets member needs. Structured differently than Committees, Communities can have an unlimited number of members join.

## **Trademark Administration**

The Trademark Administration community provides participants with opportunities to share knowledge of the administration of trademarks, discuss trends in the profession, exchange information on career paths, identify needs for education, and raise timely issues. The community can develop projects and hold virtual events if interest is expressed. IPIC members who hold the Certified Canadian Trademark Administrator (CCTA) designation, those who are enrolled in CCTA courses and those who contribute to the CCTA program will find this community relevant. Participation is open to all members with an interest in the administration of trademarks.

## **Patent Administration**

The Patent Administration community provides participants with opportunities to share knowledge of the administration of patents, discuss trends in the profession, exchange information on career paths, identify needs for education, and raise timely issues. The community can develop projects and hold virtual events if interest is expressed. IPIC members who hold the Certified Canadian Patent Administrator (CCPA) designation, those who are enrolled in CCPA courses and those who contribute to the CCPA program will find this community relevant. Participation is open to all members with an interest in the administration of patents.

## **Emerging Leaders Networking Group**

The Emerging Leaders Networking Group (ELNG) provides opportunities to get involved, learn, and network with others. All emerging leaders (those with less than 10 years of experience in IP), and student members, are encouraged to participate. Networking events for the community will be organized by IPIC's Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC) and will provide an opportunity for members beyond the ELC to participate in these activities. Joining the Emerging Leaders Networking Group will also provide those who wish to learn more about the role and initiatives of IPIC's active ELC the opportunity to do so.

## **In-house Practitioners**

The In-house Practitioners Community are IP professionals working for corporations who gather together to share knowledge, raise issues and discuss topics related to in-house practice. Those in private practice are not eligible to be part of the In-House Practitioners Community.

## **Licensing**

The Licensing Community is made up of intellectual property professionals who deal with matters relating to licenses or waivers of IP. They network, share knowledge, and discuss issues related to the practice of



licensing.

### **Mediators and Arbitrators**

The Mediators and Arbitrators Community's goal is to provide a forum to network with other professionals in the practice of mediation and arbitration on IP related matters. The community also looks for opportunities to promote awareness of the benefits of greater use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in resolving IP disputes in Canada, and to provide education.

### **Sole and Small Practice**

The Sole and Small Practice Community meets to discuss developments in IP law and small practice management issues. They also network and share knowledge that helps to support others in the management of a small IP practice in Canada. They may also discuss issues related to copyright, industrial design, patents and trademarks, as they arise.

### **Women in IP Networking Group**

The Women in IP Networking Group (also known as WING) hosts networking events, webinars and seminars with a focus on education and leadership opportunities for women IP professionals. They raise awareness of the strides women have made, and continue to make, in IP.